

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-9 remain in the application. Claim 1 has been amended.

More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to correct an obvious typographical error. The claim or any feature thereof has not been narrowed.

Claims 1 and 9 have been rejected as being anticipated by the European patent application EP 1 064 847 A1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102. We respectfully traverse on the following grounds.

The European patent application was published on March 1, 2001. Its priority application (BE 9900455) was published by the Belgian Patent Office on March 6, 2001.

The instant application claims the priority, under 35 U.S.C. § 119, of Austrian patent application A 2141/2000, filed December 22, 2000. The Austrian priority application, therefore, predates the first publication date of the European patent application and, accordingly, the European application is not available as a prior art reference.

Appl.No. 10/601,546
Amdt. dated May 26, 2004
Reply to Office action of January 30, 2004

A certified priority document was filed in the Patent Office on November 4, 2003 and should be of record. Enclosed herewith, in order to perfect the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, is a certified translation of the priority application.

In view of the foregoing, the rejection of claims 1 and 9 is moot. It is appreciatively noted that claims 2-8 have been indicated as being allowable. In light of the foregoing statements, it is not necessary to limit the claims to any of the features of the dependent claims.

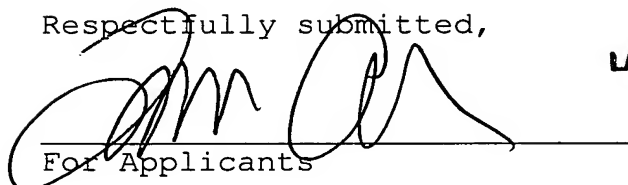
Reconsideration and the allowance of the claims are solicited.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of one month pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$110.00 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

Appl.No. 10/601,546
Amdt. dated May 26, 2004
Reply to Office action of January 30, 2004

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect
to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and
Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicants

LAURENCE A. GREENBERG
REG. NO. 29,308

WHS:tk

May 26, 2004

Lerner and Greenberg, P.A.
P.O. Box 2480
Hollywood, Florida 33022-2480
Tel.: (954) 925-1100
Fax: (954) 925-1101